

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1272

EXDIS

DEPT PASS COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO
SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: REYKJAVIK 1271

1. AS STATED PARA 5 REFTEL THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS
DELIVERED THIS MORNING TO HANS ANDERSEN FROM ME CON-
CERNING THE REDUCTION OF 420 MILITARY, EMPHASIS ON
QUALIFIED ICELANDERS, STRIKE PROHIBITION, AND ON-BASE
HOUSING CONSTRUCTION. COMICEDEFOR HAS CONCURRED IN ITS
SUBSTANCE.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

EARLY THIS MORNING I RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON A
DRAFT OF A SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF NOTES FOR YOUR CONSIDERA-
TION AS THE MECHANISM FOR SIGNIFYING SATISFACTORY CON-
CLUSION OF THE REVIEW ACTION SET IN MOTION BY ICELAND'S
INVOCATION OF ARTICLE VII, JUNE 1973. IT IS ATTACHED.
YOU WILL SEE THAT THE WORDING IS IDENTICAL TO THE DRAFT
THAT WE SUGGESTED AT THE NOVEMBER 1973 NEGOTIATING SESSION,
EXCEPT FOR A SEMANTICAL CHANGE AT THE END OF THE THIRD
PARAGRAPH. INSTEAD OF THE WORDS OF THE NOVEMBER DRAFT
WHICH READ "WHICH FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE VII,"
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THE CURRENT DRAFT READS "AND HAVE CONCLUDED THEIR REVIEW

OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT UNDER ARTICLE VII."

I EXPECT TO RECEIVE BY TOMORROW A DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION WHICH WILL BE THE COMPANION PAPER TO THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

WASHINGTON SEES NO OBSTACLES TO PROCEEDING WITH THE REDUCTION OF 420 MILITARY PERSONNEL AS SOON AS THEIR REPLACEMENT BY QUALIFIED ICELANDERS BECOMES AVAILABLE. AS FAR AS WE CAN FORETELL NOW, THE 420 MILITARY PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS WILL REQUIRE SUBSTITUTION BY 417 ICELANDERS, AS FOLLOWS:

	MILITARY PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS	REQUIRED ICELANDIC SUBSTITUTION
H-1 AND H-3 RADAR SITES	59	48
COAST GUARD LORAN C. STATION	10	10
GRINDAVIK TRANSMITTER	56	45
FLEET WEATHER FACILITY	12	0
NAVAL STATION KEFLAVIK	283	314
TOTAL	420	417

I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE THAT SO AS NOT TO DEGRADE THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE BASE HIRE ONLY QUALIFIED ICELANDIC MANPOWER AND THAT THE REDUCTIONS OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL BE TIMED TO THEIR AVAILABILITY. ALSO IMPORTANT IS SOME UNDERSTANDING ABOUT LABOR STRIKES. THE BASE HAS BEEN FORTUNATE SO FAR IN NOT HAVING HAD ANY, BUT BECAUSE OF THE LARGER NUMBER OF ICELANDERS AND THE CATEGORIES ENVISIONED NOW, AND BECAUSE STRIKES COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE READINESS POSTURE OF THE DEFENSE FORCE, I THINK THERE SHOULD BE AN AFFIRMATION (OR REAFFIRMATION) ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROHIBITION AGAINST STRIKES. YOU MIGHT RECALL THIS WAS MENTIONED DURING THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER NEGOTIATING SESSIONS AND AT THAT TIME SOMEONE REMARKED THAT IF A NEW DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS IS AGREED UPON, THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER SEEKING AN UNDERSTANDING WITH LABOR THAT THE PROVISIONS OF ICELANDIC LAW RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF STRIKES BY CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD ALSO APPLY TO ICELANDIC CIVILIANS PERFORMING FUNCTIONS AT THE BASE. I

BELIEVE ANOTHER SUGGESTION WAS THAT, PERHAPS, INTERPRETATION OF ICELANDIC LAW ON THIS SCORE APPLIES EQUALLY TO ICELANDERS WORKING AT THE BASE. HOWEVER THE MATTER IS HANDLED, THE BASE FEELS THAT DURING THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATING SESSION SOME SORT OF UNDERSTANDING ON PROHIBITION OF STRIKES IS NEEDED.

ALSO, THIS MORNING I WAS ADVISED THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS SUBMITTED IN THE BUDGET FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION THIS YEAR A REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT 200 ON-BASE HOUSING UNITS IN ANTICIPATION OF SIGNING A SATISFACTORY DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO PREPARED TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THE NEXT TWO SUCCEEDING YEARS FOR 268 MORE UNITS, FOR A TOTAL OF 468 HOUSING UNITS. THIS IS THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL UNITS WE ESTIMATE WILL BE NEEDED TO HOUSE ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL ON THE BASE AFTER THE MILITARY REDUCTIONS, MENTIONED EARLIER, HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. THE STRETCH-OUT OF THE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM OVER THREE FISCAL YEARS IS RELATED TO THE CAPACITY OF THE ICELANDIC PRIME CONTRACTOR.

I AM BECOMMING A BIT CONCERNED OVER THE SHORTNESS OF TIME WE HAVE BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR THE UNITED STATES. IF YOUR TIME PERMITS, I WOULD SUGGEST A MEETING LATER TODAY AND EVERY DAY THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER TOPICS.

WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS. END QUOTE.
IRVING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF
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